

The Body Formed in Eternity Past, Part 2
(Ephesians 1:4-6)

I. Sovereign Selection

- A. By sovereign will, by sovereign decree He chose those who were to be the member of His body totally apart from the will of any man.
 - 1. Nobody's a Johnny-come-lately in the body of Christ.
 - 2. Everybody was master-planned in because there is a vital area of responsibility that no one else can fulfill.
- B. Some say, "I don't believe in that election stuff. I believe that everybody chooses."
 - 1. The Bible teaches that too.
 - 2. Someone says... "How can you have God choosing whosoever?"
 - 3. You let God resolve the problem.
- C. Number one is what's called theocratic election.
 - 1. Theocratic election occurs God chose a nation for a special place.
 - 2. Vocational election s when God chooses a certain person to do a specific task.
- D. Salvational election.
 - 1. This is the kind that you find in Ephesians 1.
 - 2. God has ordained that we should be His people individually.

II. The object.

- A. Verse 4; "He has chosen us in Him."
 - 1. He's chosen us to be in Christ.
 - 2. The "us" are the ones who believe.
 - 3. The "us" are the ones who respond.
- B. Nobody ever will go to heaven, in all of history who does not willfully, consciously, submit himself to obedience to God.
- C. There must be a response.

III. The time.

- A. When? "Before the foundation of the world."
- B. Before the fall, before creation, before time, before anything... God laid it all out.

IV. The purpose.

- A. Why did He do this? "That we should be holy and without blemish, before Him."
- B. Positionally before God you are holy.
 - 1. Why? Because you're one with Christ.
 - 2. His blood covers your sin.
 - 3. His righteousness is credited to you so when God sees you He sees only the righteousness of Christ.
- C. The Christian life is simply making your practice match your position.

V. The motive.

- A. There's only one reason He did it. Love.
- B. God determined that He would sacrifice Himself for us and in love He set His affection upon us before the world began.

VI. The result.

- A. When you become a Christian you become a child of God.
- B. Paul says you can cry "Abba Father," which means "papa", or "daddy,"
- C. As sons you have access to all that God has for you.

VII. Why?

- A. The reason is...glory, verse 5 at the end.
- B. "According to the good pleasure of His will to the praise of the glory of His grace."

VIII. Conclusion

- A, The reason the Lord chose the body before the foundation of the world...with no human will and no help and nothing is that the glory might be all His.
- B. Well, what a thought.
- C. Fit into His body before the world began, to be to the praise of His glory.